

St. James seeks to be a community that grows more Christlike, expressing the love of Jesus Christ in our worship, our outreach, and our commitment to discipleship.

## ST. JAMES MESSENGER

### NEW BEGINNINGS!

The New Year has brought exciting new beginnings to St. James, as we rejoice at the baptism of **Aaralyn Howell** on Sunday, January 12th, 2025, on the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord. At the 2025 Diocesan Convention, Bishop Justin Holcomb called for this to be "The Year of Baptism" in the Diocese of Central Florida. We are off to a great start! Congratulations, Aaralyn!



*"We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified; proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood."  
(BCP 308)*

We are also excited to begin our new Vestry term, with four new members elected at our Annual Meeting on January 19th: Claire Brooks, Tony Cobb, Susan, Cyrus, and Bert Sofield. Bert was also selected to be our new Junior Warden, succeeding Drew Logan after three outstanding years of service.

Pictured Left to Right: Terri Galyon (Senior Warden), Tony Cobb, Bill Binneveld, Stuart Mowatt, Dick Singeltary, Susan Cyrus, Bert Sofield (Junior Warden), Rita Clements, Claire Brooks, Marvin Naylor, Fr. Tom Trees, Linda Grizzard, and Dan Robuck.



February 2025

The Messenger is a monthly publication of St. James' Episcopal Church in Leesburg, Florida. It is mailed on the last week of each month and highlights parish news for the upcoming month. Deadline for submissions is the third Wednesday of each month. Submissions should be sent to: Victoria Mymudes <office@stjames-leesburg.org>

**Church Mailing Address**  
**St. James Episcopal Church**  
**204 N. Lee Street**  
**Leesburg, FL 34748**



**SUNDAY SERVICES**                    **8:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.**  
**HEALING SERVICE:**            **Every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel**  
**FR. TREES' CELL & EMAIL:**   **(352)-643-118 EMAIL: frtrees@stjames-leesburg.org**  
**OFFICE PHONE:**                **(352) 787-1981 FAX: (352)787-1021**  
**OFFICE EMAIL:**                **office@stjames-leesburg.org**

**Please visit our website at: [www.stjames-leesburg.org](http://www.stjames-leesburg.org)**



Sunday services are livestreamed at 10:15 AM:  
Go to YouTube and type  
“Leesburg Stjames” or visit our Facebook Page.

**CLERGY AND STAFF**

<b>Rector</b>	<b>Rev'd Thomas Trees</b>
<b>Deacon</b>	<b>Rev'd Art Hollows</b>
<b>Parish Secretary</b>	<b>Victoria Mymudes</b>
<b>Finance Secretary</b>	<b>Patricia Schaefer</b>
<b>Parish Organist/Choir Director</b>	<b>John Wilson</b>
<b>Youth Ministry and Choir Director</b>	<b>Elizabeth Williams</b>
<b>Sexton</b>	<b>Wylie Hill</b>

**VESTRY MEMBERS**

(Senior Warden) Terri Galyon, (Junior Warden) Bert Sofield, (Treasurer) Mary Burnett  
Members: Bill Binneveld, Claire Brooks, Rita Clements, Tony Cobb, Susan Cyrus, Linda Grizzard, Stuart Mowatt, Marvin Naylor, Dan Robuck, Dick Singeltary.



**St. James Prayer List**



Call the Church Office (352)787-1981 with additions/

**SHORT TERM**  
**(3 Weeks)**

Michael Baker  
Ted Bedell  
Peter Benoit  
Nina Bonney  
Margaret Branham  
Renee Bray  
Carole Brook  
Stewart  
Leon Burke  
Randy Denk  
Marge Guiton  
Peg Hopper  
Lonnie Johnson  
Susan Virginia  
Johnson  
Diane Little  
Diane Neal  
Gail Ostrander  
Ted Ostrander  
Paul Rizzo  
Danny Thompson

**SHORT TERM**  
**(3 Months)**

Patricia Bailey  
Marsha Burdick  
Susan Burden  
Cregg Carreins Jr.  
Jasmine Cleeton  
Birdy Connolly  
Larry Coolbrouth  
Michele Cowley  
Connor Davidson-  
David Dudley  
Charles Hay  
Kami Hecker  
Brook James  
Ben Johnson  
Susan Leonard  
Jeffery Millett  
Jameson Small  
Shelly Thomas  
**LONG TERM**  
Baby Autumn  
Michael Baker  
Nathan Battle

**LONG TERM**

Peggy Berutich  
Bill Boyer  
Joe Branham  
Mabel Burns  
Judy Cable  
Beverly Caswell,  
Larry Coolboth  
Kristin Conner  
Beth Crossley  
Paul Dallaire  
Berni Dodeci  
Dottie Elliott  
Keneta Gaillardet  
Katie Leware  
Linda Long  
Bill Mann  
Jeff Millett  
Becky Mitchell  
Jim Mitchell  
Brandon Morrison,  
Belinda Morton-  
Rusk  
Jared Mymudes

Curt Oestreich  
Cindy Raczkowski  
Bubba Robinson  
Holly Rouse  
Robert Sanchez  
Charlie Schaefer,  
Donna Sharnosk  
Dot Vedder  
Julitta Velton  
Kevin Watkins  
Helen Williams  
Rob Yeager.

**IN MEMORIAN**

Erin Braun  
James Moran  
Ron Parsons  
Can Tokcan  
Kemal Tokcan  
Atil Enis Tokcan  
Atlas Kaan Tokcan



**CRESCENDO CHORAL FESTIVAL**



Sunday, February 2, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. at the Morrison United Methodist Church, 1005 West Main Street, Leesburg. Both our Choirs will be participating in this event. Tickets are FREE, but you need to have one to enter. For more information please call 352-787-3786.

**♥ YOUTH OPEN HOUSE ♥**

Valentine's Day is coming and so is our next Youth Open House! On Friday, February 14th from 2pm to 9pm, the St. Nicholas House will be open for all K thru 12th students to enjoy some food and fellowship!

This is a great opportunity for parents to enjoy a kid-free evening together. Please reach out to Beth Williams with any questions.



## LIBRARY CORNER



Your usual parish librarian, Margaret, is enjoying a hopefully brief R &R., but the Rm. 6 library will still open on Thursday mornings due to the help of able assistants Joyce Walworth, Linda Weekly, and Sherry Lash. Many thanks to these ladies who will open the door to our St. James print paradise. Joyce is also updating the book display on the parish hall book truck, with titles dedicated to the upcoming season of Lent.

Meanwhile, from my couch retreat, I send you cheerful greetings and many thanks for your kind notes. Margaret B.

### THE CALL

Come and join our Angel team, all you need to do is be kind. We want to bless the world, you see, we really aren't hard to find. Listen for us in the quiet, seek and we shall bring healing. Help us to bring light to our precious earth, let peace be what we're all feeling. May the peaceful path lead you home, let your mind be open to all. As you awake to teachers of love. And, answer the Angels' call.  
(Daily Word, R. Volkov)

### **Grief Support Group**

**Our next Grief Support Gathering is Thursday, February 6th at *The Coffee Snob* after closing. The Meet and Greet will start at 3:00pm with the meeting starting around 3:15pm. Remember if you want to order a drink or something to eat, come earlier.**

**Our topic for February is “*Ways We Can Support Others Who Are Grieving*”. Grief teaches us empathy and we understand what others are going through. Helping other grieving hearts can also help us to heal. What can we do and how can we support and comfort fellow grievers in their time of need?**



Our Jamaica Medical Mission team will be ministering at St. Mary's Anglican Parish in Port Maria, from February 15th-22nd. We ask your prayers for our whole mission team of over 50 members. *“Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen”*

(BCP 816-17)

## CONNECT ORIENTATION SERIES February/March 2025

The next presentation of the Connect Orientation Series will start on February 16th. These sessions are designed to present information about several aspects of worshiping at St. James, and they are open to everyone. All sessions are held in the Meeting Room in the St. Nicholas House. They run from 9:15 to 9:45. No registration is necessary -- just show up.

### **Series Schedule:**

February 16: The History of St. James

February 23: Why We Do What We Do (A Look at the Liturgy)

March 2: Missions & Ministries at St. James

## J WARNER WALLACE VIDEO DISCUSSION GROUP

Please join us in the parish hall on Tuesday, 2/18/25, at 6:00pm for the final session of our J Warner Wallace video discussion series. This month, we will be viewing his short videos *Why Does God Allow Suffering*, *Would a Loving God Send People to Hell?*, and *Does the Bible Condone Genocide?* Please bring your bag supper so that we can open the evening with a time of fellowship and food, followed by the videos and small group discussions. Hope to see you there!

## ST. JAMES SPIRITUAL FORMATION COURSE COMING IN MARCH!

Our parish Spiritual Foundation Committee is offering a new St. James Spiritual Formation Course this Lent. The course is intended for anyone at any stage of their spiritual journey. The course will explore issues like getting to know God better, listening and talking to God, how the Bible was transmitted over time, collaborating with God in stewardship and ministry, following God together as a community, and sharing our faith with others. Our plan was to offer the course on Tuesday evenings at 6:00pm from 3/11-4/8. There will also be a workshop day on Saturday 4/5. The course will involve some lecture material, class discussions, small group conversations, and interactive experiences. There appears to be sufficient interest to offer the same course on Thursdays at 11:00am after the healing service.

Please contact Dorry Curran at (949)633-8471 or [tinkrvl@gmail.com](mailto:tinkrvl@gmail.com) if you would like to participate. Please also let her know if you would be interested in a Thursday 11:00am class option. Dorry will also be available to answer questions on register participants after Sunday services during February.



**ECW UPDATE**

**February 4<sup>th</sup> General Meeting:**

ECW Board Meeting takes place at 9:00am.  
ECW General Meeting meets in the Parish Hall at 10:00am.  
The program will feature Lake Sumter Children’s Advocacy Center. Presented by Executive Director, Brenda Crellen. Mental and Legal Aid for Abused Children.

**February 17th Chapter Meetings:**

**St. Annes Chapter meets in the Parish Hall at 10:00am** Each meeting includes refreshments, time for fellowship, prayer requests and study. The current study is “A Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices” by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe.

**St. Cecillas Chapter meets in the Parish Hall at 3.45pm**  
The meetings include refreshments, fellowship and book study. Their choice for discussion is “The Parables” by Gary Inrig.

**St. Francis’ Chapter meets in St. Nicholas House at 10:00am**  
The Chapter is currently discussing the television series “The Chosen”, a dramatized version of Jesus selecting his apostles and fulfilling his mission. St. Francis’ Chapter offers a Zoom participation for members unable to attend in person.

**TABLE SCAPES**  
**MARCH 22ND**

This is a new event at St. James that goes as follows:


- ◆ Purchase a table for \$25.00
- ◆ Decorate this table with any theme you would like.
- ◆ Set the place seatings for 6 people.
- ◆ The place settings will be sold for \$30.00 each.

The event will start at 5:00 p.m. and the meal will be provided, with wine if you wish. This meal will be served by you to your guests at YOUR TABLE. A total of 10 tables will be sold and currently we have sold 8 tables, so we only need 2 more. This event will have limited seating so get your tickets early. Only Advanced Tickets will be sold beginning March 1st. For more information, please contact Karen Sofield at 908-421-5718.



**ST. JAMES POLO & T-SHIRTS**

<u>Men’s Polo Shirts Sizes</u>		<u>Women’s Polo Shirts Sizes</u>	
Sm, Med, Large, XL	\$25 each	Sm, Med, Large, XL	\$25 (short sleeve)
2XL, 3 XL, 4XL, 5XL	\$30 each.		\$30 (¾ sleeve )
		2XL, XL, 4XL	\$30 (short or ¾ sleeve)

<u>Children’s Polo Shirts Sizes</u>	<u>Screen Printed Tee Shirts</u>
Sm, Med, Large, XL \$25 each	<b>Adult :</b> S, M, L, XL \$15
	2XL, 3 XL, 4XL \$20
	<b>Children’s:</b> S, M, L, XL \$15

<u>MEN’S PRAYER BREAKFAST</u>	<u>DAUGHTERS OF THE KING</u>
The men of St. James are invited to join us on the third Wednesday of every month at 8:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 15th.	Please join us on the second Wednesday of every month at 2:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall . Our next meeting is scheduled for February 8th.

**ECW GRAND AUCTION SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025**

6:00 PM: Doors Open; Silent Auction Begins; Complimentary Appetizer Beverages Available for Donation	7:00 PM: Live Auction Begins
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Be sure to mark you calendar for this wonderful evening. At this point, we need you to do three things:

- (1) Pray for the success of this huge fundraiser for ECW's Outreach Programs.
- (2) Consider donating something for either the Silent Auction or Live Auction.
- (3) Buy your ticket. Tickets are \$5, and are available after both Services each Sunday in January.



If you are considering a donation, you will need to speak with Bob Tindall since not all items are suitable for this type of auction. You may contact him via email, phone or text: walruselect@gmail.com or (717) 575-3092. All sorts of things are being donated: various baskets; gift cards; dinners; wine tasting; dance lessons; vacation get-aways.

**PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF ITEMS AT THE PARISH OFFICE!**

# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Linda Gray	1st	Lisa James	12th
James Breeden	2nd	Carolyn Hoth	13th
Terry Crabtree	3rd	Joel Trees	13th
Linda Hintze	4th	Susan Hughes	19th
Elaine Samson	4th	James Parker	19th
Charles Stephens	5th	Elle Van Beek	19th
Anne McCoy	5th	Cregg Careins Jr.	19th
Seth Peter Trees	6th	Dot Gustafson	22th
Nicole Young	6th	Douglas Pens	22th
Janice Tindall	7th	Susan Cyrus	23rd
Katie Van Beek	7th	Fran Deems	25th
Beckham Oldham	8th	Judith Reddick	25th
Beth Williams	9th	Nancy Moran	26th
Ferrell Young	9th	Beth Brooks	27th
Margaret Bolton	11th	Sherry Lash	29th
Trey Waddell III	12th	Sue Roeglin	29th
Bill Tweedle	12th		
Tess Neumann	12th		

## ANNIVERSARIES

	Terry & Blanca Crabtree	1st	
	William & Lisa James	6th	
	Wayne & Delores Griffin	14th	
	James & Susan Soltysiak	15th	
	Gordan & Donna Ziegelman	16th	

## MONTHLY FOOD DROP

Volunteers, Tanina and Dick Singeltary, Jan Tindall, Terri and Van Galyon, Barbara Logan, Judy Baxter and Rita Clements met our faithful food and monetary givers for the January Food Drop:

COLLECTED: 374 POUNDS OF FOOD \$635.00

TOTAL TO DATE: 49,129 POUNDS OF FOOD \$58,054.00

We have proven that the cold weather conditions have not stopped our faithful givers at St. James. Thank you for the great start of 2025! We look forward to your wonderful support as our Leesburg Food Bank has great need for food and monetary contributions for those in our community. The closing of many Winn Dixie Stores that supported the Food Bank has made a negative impact with less donation sources.

We look forward to the NEXT FOOD DROP, Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-12:00, highlighting **“SOUPER BOWL” DONATIONS WITH CANS or BOXES OF SOUPS, RAMEN NOODLE PACKAGES, PLUS ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE. OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS US. BLESSINGS TO YOU.**

*BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT-Ephesians 5:18*








EPHESIANS 5:18,

## Ronald McDonald House

ECW continues its active support of the work of the Ronald McDonald House. Not only has the ECW collected many pounds of “flip-tops” that contribute to the support of the three guest houses in Orlando, but we will be traveling to the Arnold Palmer House to host dinner for 30-35 family members residing there. The families are guests, meaning at no cost, while their child is in the hospital on campus. The women of St. James will prepare dinner to bring sustenance along with cheer and companionship to the families. Never underestimate the power of women to make a difference. Visit the ECW webpage for additional details: [stjames-leesburg.org/ECW.html](http://stjames-leesburg.org/ECW.html). You can also go to the St. James Home Page, Ministries, then find ECW on the drop-down menu.

## Need to Meet with Fr. Tom?

If you would like to come by the church to meet with Fr. Tom, he will be available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am to noon, and Thursdays from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.. If you would like to arrange for other times to meet, you can contact him by phone or text at (352) 643-1182, or by email at [frtrees@stjames-leesburg.org](mailto:frtrees@stjames-leesburg.org).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						ECW
						<b>1 AUCTION</b> 6:00 Doors Open, Complimentary Hor Doeuvres, Silent Auction 7:00 AUCTION BEGINS
<b>2 GROUND HOG DAY</b> <small>The Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple</small>  8:00 Eucharist 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Eucharist   4:00 Crescendo Choral Festival-Morrison	<b>3</b>  6:00 Beginner Ukelele	<b>4</b>  9:00 ECW Board Meeting  10:00 General Meeting	<b>5</b>  10-2:00 Jody's Gift Shop Open 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy 4:00 Jubilate 6:45 Adult Choir	<b>6</b> LIBRARY OPEN 8:30-12 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service 10-2:00 Jody's Gift Shop Open  3:00 Grief Support	<b>7</b>  10-2:00 Jody's Gift Shop Open  	<b>8</b> 
<b>9</b> 5th Sunday After The Epiphany  8:00 Eucharist 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Eucharist	<b>10</b>  6:00 Beginner Ukelele  7:00 Advanced Ukulele	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  9-12:00 Food Drop 10-2:00 Jody's Gift Shop Open 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy 2:00 Daughter's of the King 4:00 Jubilate 6:45 Adult Choir	<b>13</b> LIBRARY OPEN 8:30-12 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service 10-2:00 Jody's Gift Shop Open 6:00 Vestry Meeting	<b>14</b>  10-2 JODY'S GIFT SHOP OPEN  2:00-9:00 Youth Open House Let us watch your kids while you have a fun night out.	<b>15</b>  JAMAICA MEDICAL MISSION LEAVES
<b>16</b> 6th Sunday After The Epiphany 8:00 Eucharist 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 Connect Class 10:15 Eucharist	<b>17</b>  3:00 Stephen Ministry 6:00 Beginner Ukulele	<b>18</b>  10:00 Chapter Meetings  6:00 Video Discussion Group	<b>19</b> 8:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast 10-2:00 Jody's Gift Shop Open 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy 4:00 Jubilate 5:00 Finance Committee 6:45 Adult Choir	<b>20</b> LIBRARY OPEN 8:30-12 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service 10-2:00 Jody's Gift Shop Open	<b>21</b>  10-2:00 Jody's Gift Shop Open	<b>22</b>  JAMAICA MEDICAL MISSION RETURNS
<b>23</b> 7th Sunday After The Epiphany  8:00 Eucharist 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 Connect Class 10:15 Eucharist	<b>24</b>  6:00 Beginner Ukelele  7:00 Advanced Ukulele	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  10-2:00 Jody's Gift Shop Open 12:00 Coffee & Philosophy 4:00 Jubilate 6:45 Adult Choir	<b>27</b> LIBRARY OPEN 8:30-12 10:00 Healing & Anointing Service 10-2:00 Jody's Gift Shop Open	<b>28</b>  10-2:00 Jody's Gift Shop Open	<b>BLACK HISTORY MONTH</b>   BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH